

REMARKS

The three-month period for responding to the initial Office Action expired on August 12, 2009. A Request for a Three-month Extension of Time and the associated fee are enclosed herewith. Accordingly, this Amendment is timely filed.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. By this Amendment, the specification is being amended to expressly describe the channel formed by the guide 11 as "generally L-shaped". Support for this limitation is clearly shown in original Figures 3, 4A and 4B. Further, the specification at page 6, lines 15-17 is being amended to delete a reference sign that does not appear in the drawings. Support for this revision will be found in original drawings 4C and 4D as well as in original claim 4.

Under cover of a separate letter to the Official Draftsperson, replacement drawing sheet 1/4 is being submitted herewith. In this replacement drawing sheet, Figures 1 and 2 are labeled as "PRIOR ART" and the mating profile P in Figure 3 is now labeled, as required by the Examiner. Entry and approval of replacement drawing sheet 1/4 are respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 6-14 are being amended and new claims 15-17 are being added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. The addition of "new matter" has been scrupulously avoided. Claims 1-17 remain in this application.

In the initial Office Action, the drawings were objected to because Figures 1 and 2 were not designated as "PRIOR ART", the mating profile "P" was not labeled and the "appreciably inclined part" as set forth in claim 3 was not shown in the original drawings. In the accompanying replacement drawing sheet 1/4, Figs. 1 and 2 are now labeled as "PRIOR ART" and the mating profile "P" is now labeled in Figure 3. Amended claim 3 no longer recites the "appreciably inclined part" so there is no longer any need to illustrate this feature in the drawings.

Upon entry of replacement drawing sheet 1/4, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw these objections.

Previously presented claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. Claims 1-3 have been amended herein to remedy each instance of indefiniteness cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claims 1-3 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Rasmussen (WO 96/23719) in view of Sichert (German patent No. G 89 12 053) or, alternatively, as allegedly obvious over Sichert in view of Rasmussen. These rejections, to the extent that they may be deemed applicable to the claims as now presented, are respectfully but most strenuously traversed for the following reasons.

The present invention is generally directed to the combination of an endpiece and guide for supporting a reel of material on brackets in a wiping material dispenser. In prior constructions, when the reel of material is nearly depleted, the reel may escape from the bracket and fall into the bottom of the dispenser, thus impeding or preventing operation.

The present invention provides a solution to this difficulty by ensuring that the reel of material continues to be held in position even when nearly fully unwound. To this end, amended independent claim 1 is directed to an endpiece integrated into a core for a reel of material in combination with a guide formed on a bracket supporting the reel of material adjacent to a dispenser housing. The endpiece comprises a cylindrical part engageable in the core, a collar that bears against an adjacent face of the core, and a projecting overhanging appendage. The appendage is provided along its length with a guiding retention groove to act as a guide path. The mating guide is provided on an inside of the bracket on a side on which the guide can accept the reel of material. The guide has raised lands forming and defining a generally L-shaped channel to accommodate the appendage of the endpiece and passage and retention thereof. The guide is continued by an upper part that overlies the endpiece after insertion of the appendage in the guide.

No such combination is taught, disclosed or suggested by the combined teachings of the two applied prior art references. Conspicuously absent from the teachings of either of the applied references is a guide that "has raised lands forming and defining a generally L-shaped channel to accommodate the appendage of the endpiece" and wherein "the guide is continued by an upper part that overlies the endpiece after insertion of the appendage in the guide".

Since neither of the applied references discloses these features of amended claim 1, their combined teachings cannot and would not lead to the same construction nor the benefits provided thereby.

Dependent claims 2-5 are allowable for the same reasons as independent claim 1 from which they all ultimately depend, as well as for their additional limitations.

New claim 15 is directed to another aspect of the present invention. In this new independent claim, the guide is rotatably mounted on the bracket. This feature is fully described in the original specification with regard to the embodiments of Figures 5-10. The combination of new claim 15 is clearly not taught, disclosed, suggested or even hinted at by the combined teachings of the applied prior art. Accordingly, claim 15 and claims 6-14 which all ultimately depend therefrom, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

New claim 16 is directed to the unique endpiece of the present invention as illustrated, for example, in original Figures 3, 4C, 6 and 10.

More particularly, new claim 16 is directed to an endpiece for a core of a reel of material, comprising: a cylindrical bearing surface engageable in the core; a discoidal face having a continuous outer surface that faces away from the core and an inner surface which extends radially beyond the bearing surface when the endpiece is inserted into the core; a cylindrical appendage projecting from a center of the outer surface of the discoidal face and being insertable into a guide; and wherein the appendage has a cylindrical groove in a thickness and along a length of the appendage; the cylindrical groove forming a guide path which is engageable with the guide.

The end caps of the Rasmussen reference (see Figures 2 and 3 and page 7, middle paragraph of this reference) are clearly different from the claimed endpiece of new claim 16. Similarly, the German patent reference employs a different construction.

New claim 17 which is directed to the combination of the endpiece of claim 16 engaged in the core of the reel of material in combination with a guide having a generally L-shaped channel with raised lands for receiving and retaining the appendage, is likewise allowable.

For the above reasons, all of the claims remaining in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4 and 6-14 is gratefully acknowledge. However, these claims have not been rewritten in independent form because all of the pending claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

If it would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the below indicated telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Rothenberg", with a horizontal line underneath.

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